

We Claim:

1 1. A system in a vehicle for accessing first
2 information about a given aspect of said vehicle comprising:
3 a display element for displaying a plurality of
4 options, each option being associated with a respective one
5 of a plurality of aspects of said vehicle;
6 an interface for selecting a particular one of
7 said options, the selected option being associated with said
8 given aspect and in a first status; and
9 an output for providing second information about
10 said selected option, said selected option being activated
11 to access said first information, the activated option being
12 in a second status.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said vehicle
2 comprises an automobile.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein said display
2 element comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein said interface
2 includes a touch-screen capability.

1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein said first
2 status is indicated by a highlight on said selected option
3 in a first color.

1 6. The system of claim 5 wherein said second
2 status is indicated by a highlight on the activated option
3 in a second color.

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1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein said output
2 includes audio element for conveying said first information
3 verbally.

1 8. A method for use in a system in a vehicle for
2 accessing first information about a given aspect of said
3 vehicle comprising the steps of:
4 displaying a plurality of options; each option
5 being associated with a respective one of a plurality of
6 aspects of said vehicle;
7 selecting a particular one of said options, the
8 selected option being associated with said given aspect and
9 in a first status; and
10 providing second information about said selected
11 option, said selected option being activated to access said
12 first information, the activated option being in a second
13 status.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the particular
2 one of said options is selected using a touch-screen
3 technique.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein said first
2 status is indicated by a highlight on said selected option
3 in a first color.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said second
2 status is indicated by a highlight on the activated option
3 in a second color.

1 12. The method of claim 8 further comprising the
2 step of conveying said first information verbally.